

Amendments to the Specification:

Please insert the following Abstract as a new page after page 35 of the specification:

METHOD CAPABLE OF BEING AUTOMATED FOR  
DETECTION OF PrP<sup>res</sup> AND USES THEREOF

Abstract of the Invention

This detection method uses a solid support whereon plasminogen is immobilized, and includes essentially the following steps: (a) preparing the biological sample during which the latter is incubated on a homogenizing buffer which comprises an ionic or nonionic surfactant, a glucose-containing buffer, a saccharose-based buffer and a PBS buffer or in a capture buffer comprising an ionic surfactant; said step optionally comprising incubation with a proteinase K at a final concentration ranging between 1 and 8  $\mu\text{g/ml}$ ; (b) capturing the PrP<sup>res</sup> on the solid support, which is carried out in the presence of a capture buffer, as defined above; (c) a controlled denaturation of the PrP<sup>res</sup> fixed on the support comprising incubation with a denaturation buffer including at least one chaotropic agent, at a temperature ranging between room temperature and 100°C; and (d) detecting the denatured PrP<sup>res</sup> fixed on said support with a PrP protein-specific antibody.